

SPRING 2024

WECARE CLINIC MESSENGER



WeCare Clinic – Medical Care for Special Needs, 775 Pembroke Fairview Road, Pembroke, KY 42266
Phone: 270-962-7383 Fax: 270-962-7385 www.wecareforspecialneeds.org

The Pieces of Fabric that Bind us Together

I am writing this article on a cold, blustery February morning. Days like this are best for sitting close to our fireplace.



As I write, our youngest child is covered with a quilt made by my wife's great grandmother and great aunts. The quilt is comforting to him since he has the flu. I thought about the age of the quilt and the conversations that must have taken place while quilting. The quilt has been passed down from previous generations to our little Nathan. Our son is too young to understand the significance of the quilt. To him, it is just something to keep him warm and has odd colored pieces of fabric that are tattered and worn. To our family, it is a piece of family history nearly 100 years old that represents sacrifice, hard work, family, and love. I enjoy hearing stories of old about my wife's great grandmother and how they barely scraped by with such a large family while facing tough economic times. I wonder if the tough times is what brought them closer as a family.



The sense of family and community enjoyed many years ago is often lost today with such busy schedules and never-ending to-do lists. Often it is not until someone receives a health diagnosis for themselves or a child that forces them to slow down.

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The Pieces of Fabric that Bind Us Together (cont.)

Much like the quilt with pieces of fabric and thread binding it together, our clinic is bound together through sacrifice, hard work, family, and love. WeCare Clinic would not exist without our families, generous donors and volunteers, staff members, and board members bound together to improve the quality of life for families with genetic disorders through medical care, education, and research. When you face health challenges in your family, WeCare staff are ready to assist you through the difficult times.



By: Matthew L. Hunt, Ed.D.

Will you consider a donation to WeCare Clinic to help us serve children and adults with special health needs?

Providing Care from Birth to End of Life

When I was just 10 years old, I watched my father go through treatment for cancer. My stepmom and he traveled the United States from Michigan to California to Mexico trying to get the best treatment. After spending a lot of money, and a long time away from the people that loved him most, he lost his battle to cancer. I watched my hero endure so much pain and sickness with no relief in sight. I sometimes wondered if all the time away and money spent changed the outcome at all.



By: Renee Spivey, RN

When I became a nurse, I knew I wanted to help families with the end-of-life process in any way I could by breaking down the barriers and providing the best care possible for patients. I did not want one family to have the burden we faced. End of life is hard enough; if there is a way to help ease some of the stress that goes along with it, why not?

As part of the WeCare team I can help our families when they get a terminal diagnosis or have a condition that may require palliative care. We work together with families to decide what works best for them and their loved ones. Patients can come to establish care at WeCare, and the provider is able to sit down with the patient and family to decide the course of treatment that best fits their needs.

In the state of KY, we have what is called the MOST (Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment) form that is a legal document based on the patients' medical condition and wishes. This form is completed with the patient's parent/guardian and with the patient physician. The form allows the family to decide treatment options: whether to allow CPR, medical interventions such as IV fluids, IV medications, oxygen, or comfort measures. This form is always kept with the patient, so if they need medical treatment, they can hand the form to their physician or hospital staff so they can easily be informed of the patient/family's treatment plan. MOST forms must be updated yearly with your provider. Each state may have a different form like the MOST form, so check with your provider if you do not reside in KY. The MOST form allows families to not take on the extra burden of medical expenses that may not change the outcome for a patient.

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Providing Care from Birth to End of Life (cont.)

WeCare clinic can provide many services to our patients other than just genetic testing and treatment of genetic diagnosis. We send nurses and providers in the surrounding counties to the homes to break down the barrier of care when your loved one is not healthy enough to travel. Our provider sits down with patients and family and plans based on signs and symptoms for the best plan of care. WeCare is proactive in looking ahead at the barriers you may face before they become a problem. Such as, will we need oxygen, a wheelchair, a feeding tube, or hospice? Then staff work to have things in place in case they are needed. When you are faced with so much you never know what you may or may not want in your time of need, so we try to have this conversation before they are needed.

Every culture has a different outlook and practice when it comes to end of life. In most states a coroner will want to be called once a patient dies. The coroner then decides whether an autopsy needs to be performed to determine cause of death. The goal of WeCare is to have documentation in place that parents can hand to the coroner along with the provider's phone number. By doing this the body of a loved one will remain with the family and not be sent off for autopsy if the coroner has all the information needed. All the above information is in accordance with KY state law. It is a good idea to know your state laws regarding end of life and to know your county coroner's name and contact information.

End of Life is a time where families' only concerns should be about spending their last moments together, making memories. Families should not be trying to make decisions and wondering in that moment if they have made the right ones. We strive to take some stress off our families and provide our patients with comfort. WeCare Clinic staff wants to help families from the beginning of life to the end of life in any way we can.

All Midwives are Invited to our May Midwife Meeting

Planning is underway for our Spring Midwife meeting on Monday, May 20, 2024 from 9am until approximately 2pm. Pembroke Baptist Church, at 144 S Main St Pembroke, KY, has graciously consented for us to host the meeting in their fellowship hall. Lunch will be provided. If you are a midwife or know a midwife who would be interested, give Marlene Schmucker a call at 270-776-3552 to RSVP by May 13. Our guest speaker will be Dr Dawn Garrett-Wright, Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner and she will deliver a presentation on Postpartum Depression. We are working on getting one more speaker as well. As always, there will be plenty of time for informal interaction and networking.



By: Marlene Schmucker, RN, BSN

National Nutrition Month Was Held in March

In 1973 the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (the professional group for dietitians) created a national campaign to help spread awareness on how nutrition plays a critical role in your health. Every March, RD/Ns (Registered Dietitian/Nutritionists) try to spread the word and share their expertise in nutrition. This is a time I like to focus on dispelling common nutrition myths.



By: Erin E. Teague MS, RD/N, LD

The phrase likely came about with good intention, trying to increase the amount of fruits and vegetables eaten. Many of you know that during the summer, when most fruits and vegetables are harvested, this is in fact when many of them taste the best! However, when buying fresh fruits and vegetables out of season, we face several issues. For starters, the choices are limited! Next, they are often much more expensive due to the cost to transport them from more tropical climates. Research has also shown that when fruits and vegetables are frozen, canned, or dried during their peak season, in many cases peak nutrition is also preserved.

Nutrition Tip: If you are eating fruits and vegetables you did not freeze, can, or dry yourself, be sure to check the label to see if extra sugar or other ingredients have been added.

Is there a nutrition myth or topic you would like me to cover? I invite you to write to the clinic with your questions. Happy National Nutrition Month!



Planning is Underway for the 2024 Community and Family Health Awareness Day

Mark your calendars for the 2024 Community and Family Health Awareness Day at WeCare Clinic. Planning is underway for this annual educational event. The day will begin with registration at 8:30am on September 14, 2024, and include a series of presentations with knowledgeable speakers from the Clinic for Special Children, Vanderbilt University and more. Lunch will be served with time for visiting with other families. More details will follow in the August edition of the WeCare Messenger. If you have any questions about the clinic or how to get involved, contact Matthew L. Hunt, Executive Director, at (270) 202-6603.



By: Matthew L. Hunt, Ed.D.

2024 Outreach Clinics

January 9 - Munfordville (Completed)

February 28 - Flemingsburg (Completed)

May 29 - Flemingsburg

July 24 - Munfordville

August 6 - Flemingsburg

October 16 - Smith's Grove

November - Flemingsburg

If you are interested in the upcoming outreach clinics or becoming a patient of WeCare Clinic, call 270-962-7383.



WECARE BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

- Mark Hoover
- Susan Jones, PhD, RN
- M. Eve Main, DNP, APRN
- Cleon Nolt
- Marcus Nolt (Secretary)
Ph: (270) 475-4128
- Luke Shirk (Treasurer)
Ph: (270) 885-8210
- John Troyer
- Harvey Zimmerman (Chair)
Ph: (270) 475-4191
- Lawrence Z. Zimmerman (Vice-Chair)
Ph: (270) 886-5254

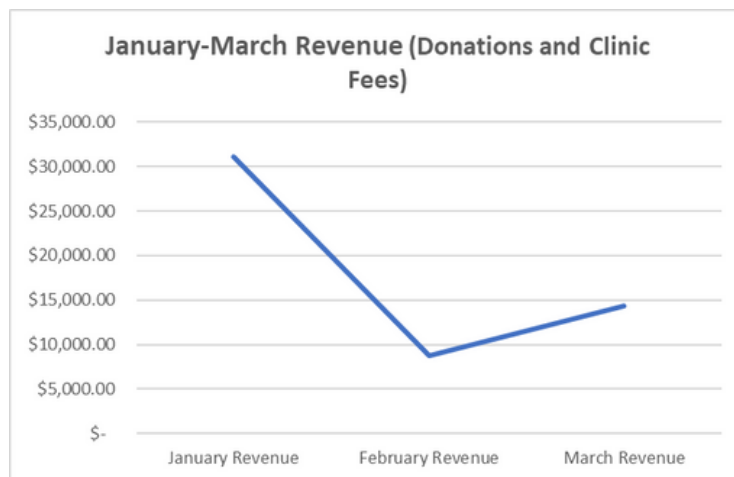
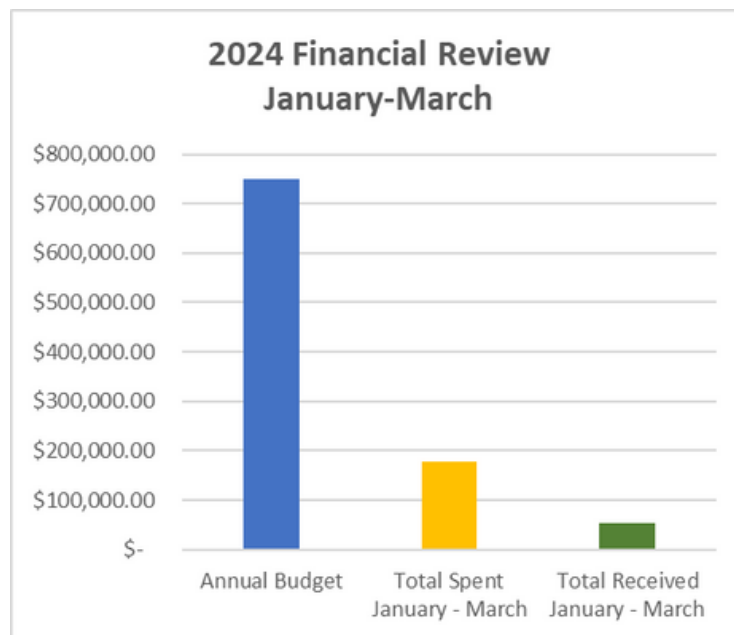
WECARE STAFF:

- Matthew L. Hunt, EdD
Executive Director
- Gregory D. Mock, MD
Medical Director
- Jolene Schmucker, APRN
Nurse Practitioner
- Marlene Schmucker, RN, BSN
Registered Nurse
- Tammy Sisk
Office Assistant
- Renee Spivey, RN
Clinic Operations Manager
- Erin Teague, MS, RD/N, LD
Dietitian

Financial Overview - January to March 2024

WeCare Clinic has collected \$54,196.11 in revenue through fundraising efforts and clinic revenue between January and March. Year to date expenses were \$178,511.16. WeCare Clinic is currently operating with a deficit of \$124,315.05. Donations have been coming in very slowly. More financial help is needed for operations for the clinic to meet the budget for calendar year 2024.

Will you consider making a tax-deductible donation to help us meet our operation needs? Funds can be mailed directly to WeCare Clinic at 775 Pembroke Fairview Road, Pembroke, KY 42266. If you have questions about donating to WeCare Clinic, you can call (270) 202-6603.



Contact Us

If you have any questions about supporting WeCare Clinic, please call 270-962-7383 or 270-202-6603. You can also write us at 775 Pembroke Fairview Road, Pembroke, KY 42266 or fax us at 270-962-7385.

The mission statement for WeCare Clinic is to improve the quality of life for families with genetic disorders through medical care, education, and research.

Upcoming Events:

WeCare Clinic Fish Fry and Fundraiser Auction

Date: April 19th

Time: 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Location: Bluegrass Sales Stables, 205 Trenton Tress Shop Road, Trenton, KY 42286

WeCare Midwife Meeting

Date: May 20, 2024

Time: 9:00am - 2:00pm

Location: Pembroke Baptist Church, at 144 S Main St Pembroke, KY

WeCare Clinic Fundraiser Auction

Date: June 1, 2024

Time: Starting at 9:00am

Location: Casey County Produce Auction, 524 S Fork Creek Rd, Liberty, KY 42539

WeCare Community and Family Health Awareness Day

Date: September 14, 2024

Time: 9:00am - 1:00pm

Location: WeCare Clinic, 775 Pembroke Fairview Road, Pembroke, KY 42266

WeCare Clinic Fundraiser Auction

Date: October 4 and October 5, 2024

Time: Starting at 6:00pm on October 4th and Starting at 9:00am on October 5th

Location: Bluegrass Sales Stables, 205 Trenton Tress Shop Road, Trenton, KY 42286

The Renovation Has Started

The renovation to add an educational room, small meeting room, and eight offices to the clinic has started. We appreciate the donations, donated materials, and volunteer labor thus far. A total of \$51,000 has been donated toward the project. More help is needed.

Harvey Ray Martin is serving as the contact for volunteer labor and donated materials. Harvey Ray's phone number is 270-265-5566. So far preliminary excavation has been completed, the footers have been dug and poured, and the foundation has been laid. Assistance is needed in the following areas: Framing, Roofing, Insulation, Drywall, Windows, Flooring Trim, Doors, Painting, Siding, Gutters, Excavating, and Landscaping.

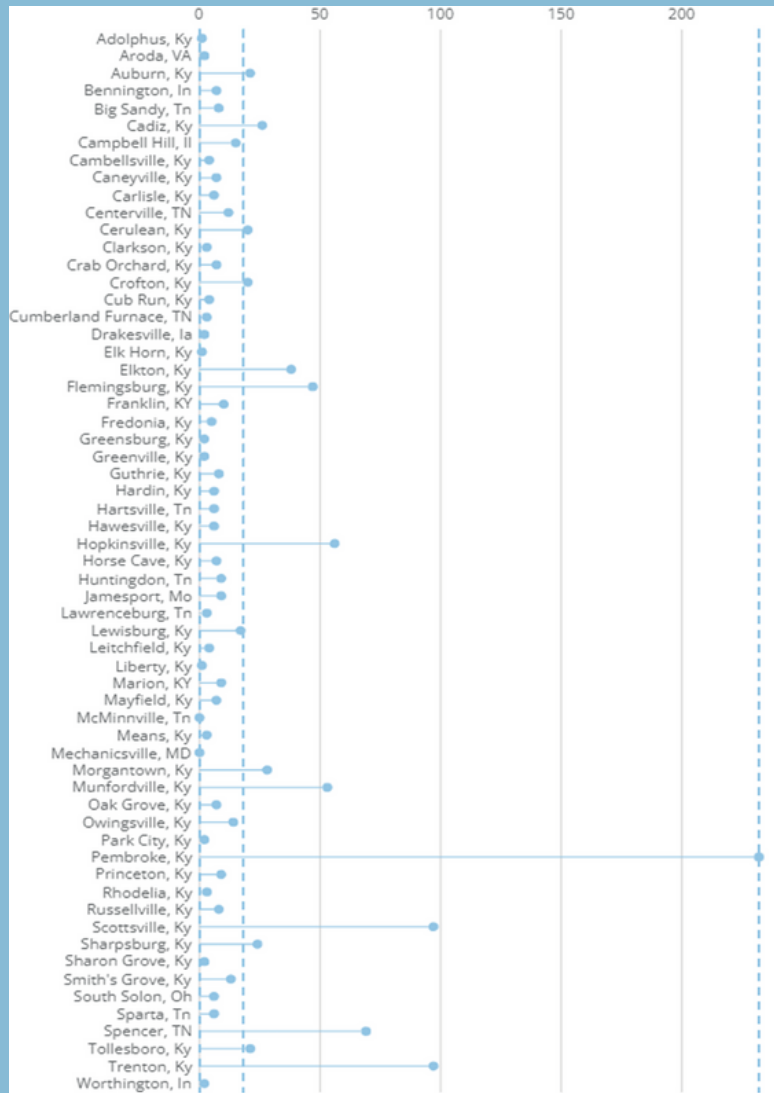
Donations can be mailed directly to WeCare Clinic at 775 Pembroke Fairview Road, Pembroke, KY 42266 with "Renovation Challenge" in the memo line of the check. If you have any questions about donating to the renovation, contact Matthew L. Hunt, Executive Director, at (270) 202-6603.



By: Matthew L. Hunt, Ed.D.

2023 Annual Report

During calendar year 2023, the staff of WeCare Clinic were able to serve patients from nine different states including Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Missouri, Ohio, and Tennessee. The chart below shows the various cities and states where people are traveling from to receive care at WeCare Clinic. During 2023 there were 1,166 appointments made at the clinic. The staff and board of directors want to thank you for your willingness to allow us to provide care for you and your family.



Appointment by Visit Type - Calendar Year 2023

Visit Type	Count	Percentage
Blood Draw Only	287	24.6%
Routine/Follow-up	243	20.8%
Phone Call, Established	204	17.5%
Phone Call, Genetic Counseling	145	12.4%
Establishing Care	92	7.9%
Phone Call, Dietitian	74	6.3%
Telemedicine	51	4.4%
Home	22	1.9%
Sick	21	1.8%
Injection	13	1.1%
Genetic Counseling	12	1.0%
Phone Call, New	2	0.2%
Total Appointments	1166	

2023 Annual Report (cont.)

The financial support provided by individuals, families, businesses, churches, and fundraising events is critical to WeCare Clinic's mission. This financial support enables our staff to become an established resource for families in need of critical care. Without it, we would not be able to serve families. If you have any questions about the clinic or how to get involved, contact Matthew L. Hunt, Executive Director, at (270) 202-6603.

WeCare Clinic 2023 Financial Statement

Income	Jan - Dec 23
Total Direct Public Support (Donations)	\$ 765,310.45
Total Investments (Interest on Savings)	\$ 1,156.24
Total Program Income (Clinic Services)	\$ 85,032.38
Total Income	\$ 851,499.07
Expense	
Jan - Dec 23	
Total Contract Services	\$ 28,138.48
Total Facilities and Equipment	\$ 12,194.14
Total Operations	\$ 61,355.86
Total Other Types of Expenses	\$ 35,988.80
Payroll Expenses	\$ 70,828.92
Total Salaries & Wages	\$ 540,174.22
Total Travel and Meetings	\$ 11,062.07
Total Expense	\$ 759,742.49
Net Income	\$ 91,756.58



By: Matthew L. Hunt, Ed.D.



By: Jolene Schmucker, APRN

Does Your Community Want to Learn More about WeCare Clinic?

If so, contact us to schedule a Community Awareness Day. You will learn about the exciting happenings at WeCare Clinic, learn more about care provided at the clinic, meet clinic staff, and meet other families receiving care at WeCare Clinic.

If you have questions about scheduling a Community Awareness Day, call Harvey Zimmerman (270-475-4191), Lawrence Z. Zimmerman (270-886-5254), or Matthew L. Hunt (270-202-6603).

Thank you for making a donation to WeCare Clinic.

Make your check payable to: WeCare Clinic

Mail to: WeCare Clinic, 775 Pembroke Fairview Road, Pembroke, KY 42266

Donation Made By: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Date: _____ Check # _____ Amount: _____

If you do not wish to send donations directly to WeCare Clinic, anonymous contributions may be made through the Anabaptist Foundation. Make your check payable to Anabaptist Foundation with WeCare Clinic Fund on the memo line.

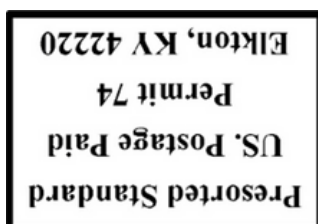
Mail to: Anabaptist Foundation, 55 Whisper Creek Drive, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

☐

Check here if you wish to receive a tax-deductible receipt at the end of the year.

☐

Check here if this is a 3-6-5 Challenge sponsorship. _____ Paid in full _____ Paid monthly



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Pembroke, KY 42266

